

Re-Issue Appln No. 09/995,483
Amdt date November 2, 2004
Reply to Office action of September 9, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above amendments and these remarks are in response to the Office action mailed on September 9, 2004. Claims 48 and 49 have been amended. Claims 58-81 have been cancelled. Claims 82-113 have been added and are directed to subject matter disclosed in the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 3-42, 48, 49, 57 and 82-113 are now pending in this application. Reconsideration on the basis of the above amendments and the remarks below is kindly requested.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview on October 5, 2004, where the Costa et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,730,306) was briefly discussed.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicant elects to continue prosecution with the Group I invention and claims 1, 3-42, 48, 49, 57 and 82-113 readable thereon.

The Examiner objected to claim 48. Claim 48 has been amended to overcome this objection.

The Examiner rejected claims 48, 49, 58 and 59 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Costa et al. Claims 48 and 49 have been amended for clarity and are directed to an insert having an annular section defining an opening which opening extends through "an entire thickness of the insert". Costa et al. discloses a liner. However, the Costa et al. liner does not appear to have an opening that extends through the entire thickness of the liner. As such, applicant submits that claims 48 and 49 are not anticipated by Costa et al. Support for the amendment to claims 48 and 49 is found on column 5, lines 38-45.

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Claims 82-113 have been added under direct subject matter disclosed in the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Specifically these claims find support in FIGS. 6, 5 and 4, as well as on column 3, line 24 to column 4, line 27, and column 5, lines 8-52. Applicant believes that claims 82-113 are also in condition for allowance over Costa et al.

The rejections and objections to all claims pending in this application are believed to have been overcome and this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns about the allowability of this application, the Examiner is kindly requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss them.

Respectfully submitted,
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